



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

**Child Abuse and Neglect
Annual Report of Child Fatalities
State Fiscal 2010
(July, 01 2009 to June, 30 2010)**

*Protecting our children,
families and future*

**Child Abuse and Neglect
Annual Report
of
Child Fatalities**

2010



State of Indiana
Department of Child Services
Published February 2012

**Department of Child Services
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Preface

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) completes a review of all child fatalities if the circumstances surrounding the child's death are reported to be sudden, unexpected or unexplained, or if there are allegations of abuse or neglect. DCS will assess the fatality case to determine if abuse or neglect has occurred and therefore should be substantiated. Abuse is defined in Indiana Code 31-34-1-2 as an act in which a child's physical or mental health is seriously endangered due to injury by the act or omission of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian. Neglect is defined in Indiana Code 31-34-1-1 as an act in which a child's physical or mental condition is seriously impaired or seriously endangered as a result of the inability, refusal, or neglect of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, or supervision. DCS collects and analyzes this data to create an annual Indiana Child Fatality Report (Report).

This Report, abridged in the Executive Summary (Summary), illustrates changes or trends in the number of fatalities from the previous year. The Summary also includes a synopsis of data for all substantiated child abuse or neglect fatalities for that State Fiscal Year (SFY), including demographic information pertaining to the victims, perpetrators, and households impacted by these fatalities. The Report augments the demographics with a description of the maltreatment that led to the child's death.

Through analysis of the Report, DCS identifies the risk factors that are common elements related to abuse and/or neglect fatalities. This information can aid in the development of prevention, educational and service programs specific for the communities affected and the State as a whole. The data is also used to evaluate, review, and modify DCS policy, practice and procedure where warranted. The data assembled in the Report is collected from multiple sources, including DCS records, death certificates, coroners' reports, and law enforcement records.

Each fatality identified undergoes a multi-layered review process that occurs at both the county and state level. A team of professionals from the local county reviews the assessed fatality alleged to be the result of abuse and/or neglect. The local fatality review team examines the evidence and recommendations provided by the local DCS staff regarding each death. After the local team reviews the assessment, a team of DCS personnel provides a supplementary review of each case. The reports are then finalized at the DCS Central Office and the data is collected from the final findings of the assessments.

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General SFY 2010 Child Abuse and Neglect Comments

The role of mandatory reporters is vital to protecting children from abuse and neglect. Certain professionals, such as doctors, teachers, and counselors, have a legal obligation to report any suspected child abuse or neglect. Indiana law, however, mandates anyone who believes a child may be the victim of abuse and/or neglect must make a report to the Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (Hotline) at 1-800-800-556 or to the police (Indiana Code 31-33-5-1). Family, friends and neighbors often share suspicions and ongoing concerns after the child fatality has occurred. Proactive, timely and consistent reporting of these concerns to the Hotline will promote child safety interests within Indiana communities. DCS recognizes the value of community involvement and urges the public to partner with the Agency to protect all Hoosier children.

It is also important for the public to understand how easily children can be injured. The majority of child abuse fatalities documented in this Report involved head trauma, specifically abusive head trauma. While children are often considered “resilient” in many respects, a single act in anger or a single careless action by a caregiver can result in a lifetime disability or even death.

Supervision is crucial in the prevention of fatalities. Caregivers must never compromise age-appropriate supervision. Substance abuse by parents or caregivers is also a concern when considering appropriate supervision. Fatalities have too often occurred as a result of an adult caregiver being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol when bed-sharing with infants and toddlers, driving with children in the car, or simply while supervising a child.

This Report focuses on the deaths that occurred as a direct result of caregiver maltreatment or neglect during SFY 2010. Each child who is a victim of child abuse or neglect should be remembered and mourned, and the circumstances of their deaths studied so every citizen in Indiana can understand the factors that led to their tragic deaths and apply these painful lessons toward preventing the deaths of other children. Whether from maltreatment, poor judgment and/or lack of information and resources, many child deaths are preventable.

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DCS Annual Child Fatality Report Executive Summary

There were 25 abuse and neglect fatalities substantiated in SFY 2010. Of the 25 fatalities, 19 (76%) were due to abuse and 6 (24%) were due to neglect.

Four of the 25 fatalities occurred in households with at least one prior child protective services substantiated investigation (i.e., in a case known to the Agency). Two of the children had prior history, while two children were in a household with a child who had prior history. The four deaths occurred in 3 of 19 abuse households and 1 of 6 neglect households.

The chart below provides a comparison to previous years:

<u>SFY</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Abuse</u>	<u>Neglect</u>	<u>Previous Involvement</u>
2003	51	34	17	11
2004	57	22	35	19
2005	54	24	30	20
2006	53	30	23	11
2007	36	17	19	9
2008	46	24	22	15
2009	38	24	14	9
2010	25	19	6	4

Beginning in SFY 2010 DCS adopted the use of the National Center for Child Death Review Case Reporting System (NCCDR) to collect child fatality information. The use of the NCCDR allows DCS to track details surrounding child fatalities in a nationally recognized manner and assist the Agency in future prevention efforts. Currently used by almost 75% of the states, the NCCDR is a national system that allows states across the country to use the data collected to bring consistency to child fatality reporting.

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The NCCDR categorizes fatalities by the primary category of death, then more specifically by cause of death. Indiana also chose to list the major characteristics of the fatalities to gain a clearer picture of the types of abuse and neglect that ultimately resulted in the child's death.

While the NCCDR case reporting system only recognizes prior maltreatment or neglect of the victim as "prior history", Indiana expands that definition to include any children living in the home at the time of the fatality. For example, the tables found later in this report using the NCCDR will show only two victims with prior history, but under Indiana's expanded definition there were four.

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Fatalities due to Physical Abuse

The following paragraphs provide summaries of the fatalities that resulted from abuse in State Fiscal Year 2010:

One year old child died while left in the care of mother's boyfriend. The boyfriend called mother shortly after she left, stating there was something wrong with the child. The boyfriend gave conflicting stories about what happened to the child while in his care. The child was found to have bruises on the back, legs, and arms. The child died as a result of a subdural hematoma due to blunt force trauma as a result of child abuse.

One year old child was shot and killed by father, who then turned the gun on himself but failed in his attempted suicide. There was no history of domestic violence or explanation for the shooting other than the mother had plans to move out of state with the child.

Three year old child was upstairs with mother's boyfriend. The mother reported hearing what she thought were sounds of the two playing, followed by a loud noise. Boyfriend initially said the child fell off the bed and then hit a dresser while they were playing. The child was found to have bruising over most of the body. The cause of death was multiple blunt force trauma to the head and torso.

Two year old child died of abusive head trauma as a result of injuries inflicted by mother's boyfriend. The child was found to have bruises, burns, and injuries to most of the body, which would have been visible to mother.

Seven month old child died as a result of injuries inflicted by mother's boyfriend. Mother was asleep when the injuries likely occurred. The child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head and also had several injuries to the head and torso that appeared to be from impact.

Three year old child was left with mother's boyfriend while she worked. Boyfriend admitted causing injuries to the child out of frustration due to the child's crying and not following commands. The child died of trauma to the head.

Two year old child was left in the care of mother's boyfriend when she went to sleep. Mother was aware boyfriend was drug and alcohol impaired. The child died of abusive head trauma, and had bruises covering the head and torso that appeared to be in differing stages of healing. During the course of the investigation it was discovered the mother had prior concerns the boyfriend was abusing the child.

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Fatalities due to Physical Abuse, continued

One year old child was left with mother's boyfriend while she worked. Boyfriend said the child woke shortly after mother left and would not go back to sleep. Boyfriend admitted to throwing the child off the bed, kicking child, shaking child, and then throwing child to the floor for a second time. Child died of abusive head trauma.

Eight month old child was left with mother's boyfriend when she left for work. The child was brought to the hospital with old and new head injuries. The boyfriend admitted to being "irate" and "jerking" the child toward him to stop the child from crying. The child died from abusive head trauma.

Two month old child was brought to the hospital with skull and rib fractures. The head injuries and rib fractures were determined to be due to more than one incidence of abuse. Mother had taken the child to the hospital several days prior to the death, and x-rays were taken, but the hospital did not detect the rib fractures present at that time. All injuries were determined to have been inflicted by the father while the child was in his care. The child died as a result of abusive head trauma.

Five week old child was brought to the hospital unresponsive. Child lived with both parents, but was in the care of the father when the child stopped breathing. The child was found to have head trauma and rib fractures. The father told several stories, but at one point did admit to squeezing and shaking the child on several occasions. He admitted that, on one occasion, he squeezed the child so hard the child turned blue and stopped breathing. A witness also verified seeing the father squeeze the child, but this never occurred while the mother was present. The child died as a result of abusive head trauma.

One year old child was left in the care of mother's boyfriend while mother took child's sibling to school. Shortly after mother returned home, the child became unresponsive. The child was found to have multiple blunt force trauma injuries to the head and abdomen, and died as a result of the injuries. The boyfriend was found to have freshly bloodied knuckles while in the hospital waiting room, and it was determined that the injuries to the child occurred during the time that mother was gone from the home. The child died as a result of blunt force trauma.

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Fatalities due to Physical Abuse, continued

Three month old was left in the care of the father while mother worked. While in the father's care, the child became unresponsive. The child was found to have healing rib fractures and head trauma. Father gave several stories about the child falling or being dropped in an attempt to account for the injuries, but doctors indicated the injuries were consistent with abuse. The child died as a result of abusive head trauma.

Five year old child was tied up and beaten by father and father's girlfriend. The child was found to have ligature marks to the neck, wrists, and ankle, as well as bruises, burns, and abrasions over the entire body. The child ultimately died as a result of a fracture of the cervical spine due to strangulation. The girlfriend's children reported seeing the child beaten and begging for help, but they indicated they were afraid to intervene.

Fifteen year old child was reported missing from the family home by mother and step-father. After a search by law enforcement the child was found deceased in the back yard. The child died as a result of multiple sharp and blunt force injuries to the head and neck. The child's throat had been cut and there were multiple stab wounds and skull fractures found. Stepfather eventually admitted to the killing.

Two year old was in the care of mother's boyfriend when she left for work. The boyfriend initially reported finding the child shaking on the bathroom floor, but later admitted he beat the child with his fists. Siblings in the home reported mother's boyfriend was mean when their mother was not around and would hit them with a belt and tell them not to tell their mother. The child died as a result of abusive head trauma.

One year old child lived with mother and siblings. Mother brought child to the hospital stating the child was not breathing. The child was found to have died as a result of abusive head trauma. The mother denied causing the injuries, but admitted she had been the only caregiver for the children. Law enforcement noted a dent in the wall at mother's home, and DNA samples taken from the dent were found to be from the deceased child.

Five and eight year old siblings were found in the remains of their house after a fire. Mother's live-in boyfriend eventually admitted to setting the fire. One child was restrained while the other child was unable to escape. Both children died of soot inhalation.

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Fatalities due to Neglect

The following paragraphs provide summaries of the fatalities that resulted from neglect in State Fiscal Year 2010:

Four year old child was at an apartment complex pool with mother. Mother was present at poolside, but was not providing adequate supervision. Security video shows the child struggled in the water for approximately five minutes, and then floated unresponsive for five minutes before a bystander pulled the child from the pool. The child was unresponsive when pulled from the pool; the cause of death was drowning.

Eight year old child died after being thrown from a vehicle. Father's girlfriend took the child and a sibling in her car and left the home. Neither child was restrained when the girlfriend ran a red light and was struck by another car. Girlfriend's blood alcohol level was found to be above the legal limit. The child died of head trauma.

Five year old child lived with father, step-mother, and other extended family. The child was brought to a local mental health facility due to behavior problems, but was immediately referred for medical care due to her observed condition. The child was admitted to the hospital and found to be severely malnourished with evidence of physical trauma to almost all surfaces of the body. Doctors indicated the child was possibly given salt as a form of punishment which led to complications of hypernatremia, the cause of death. Failure to thrive was also noted as a contributing factor, and doctors indicated this was not due to an intrinsic medical condition.

Mother arrived at the hospital with a perineum tear and a partial placenta still in her uterus. Doctors confirmed she had recently delivered a child. Mother told several stories about what had happened to the child, including giving the child to a Safe Haven location and saying that the child had perished after birth. An extensive search was undertaken to locate the child or ascertain what had happened, but the child's body was never located.

One year old died as a result of a gunshot to the head. Father admitted to walking with the child in a stroller while holding a loaded gun. The gun accidentally discharged when it hit the handle of the stroller.

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Fatalities due to Neglect, continued

Four year old child was shaken by father as an infant while living in another state. As a result of this abuse, the child was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, was unable to walk, eat, or talk, and required round-the-clock care. Child was living with mother and step-father. Mother told family members the child was not expected to live past the age of five, but doctors indicated that no prognosis was ever given for the child. The child received no medical care for close to three and half years. The child died of failure to thrive as a result of severe malnutrition and dehydration. Doctors noted that anyone providing care for the child, such as bathing and changing, should have noticed how severely malnourished the child had become.



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County of Occurance
For State Fiscal Year 2010

County of Occurance

County	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Clinton	1	0	1
Decatur	0	1	1
Delaware	0	1	1
Greene	0	1	1
Hamilton	1	0	1
Knox	1	0	1
Lake	7	0	7
Lawrence	1	0	1
Marion	1	2	3
Marshall	1	0	1
Monroe	1	1	2
Scott	1	0	1
Shelby	1	0	1
Spencer	1	0	1
Vanderburgh	2	0	2
Statewide	19	6	25



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Indiana Child Fatalities Report

Assessment Statistics - All Children For State Fiscal Year 2010

	State Fiscal Year 2010		
	Abuse	Neglect	Total
All Child Fatalities	19	6	25
Coroner Cases	19	5	24
Percent to All Abuse / All Neglect / All Total	100.00%	83.33%	96.00%
Autopsies Performed	19	4	23
Percent to All Abuse / All Neglect / All Total	100.00%	66.67%	92.00%
Scene investigated by coroner.	11	2	13
Percent to All Abuse / All Neglect / All Total	57.89%	33.33%	52.00%
Scene investigated by Law Enforcement.	18	6	24
Percent to All Abuse / All Neglect / All Total	94.74%	100.00%	96.00%
Scene investigated by fire investigator.	3	0	3
Percent to All Abuse / All Neglect / All Total	15.79%	0.00%	12.00%
Emergency Medical Services was on scene.	10	3	13
Percent to All Abuse / All Neglect / All Total	52.63%	50.00%	52.00%



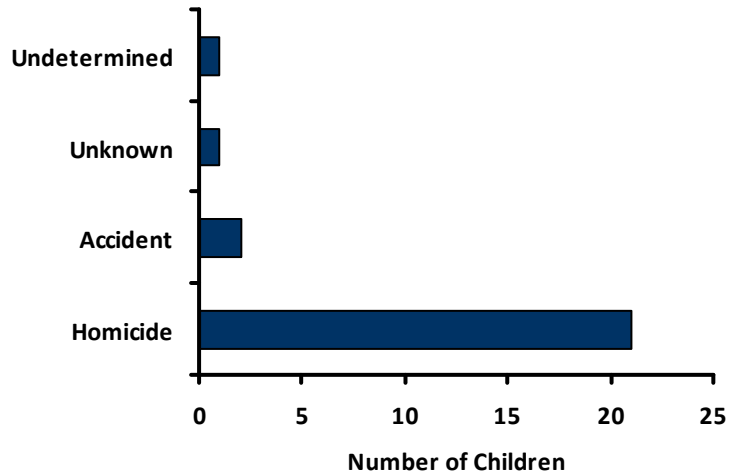
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Manner and Major Category of Death - All Children For State Fiscal Year 2010

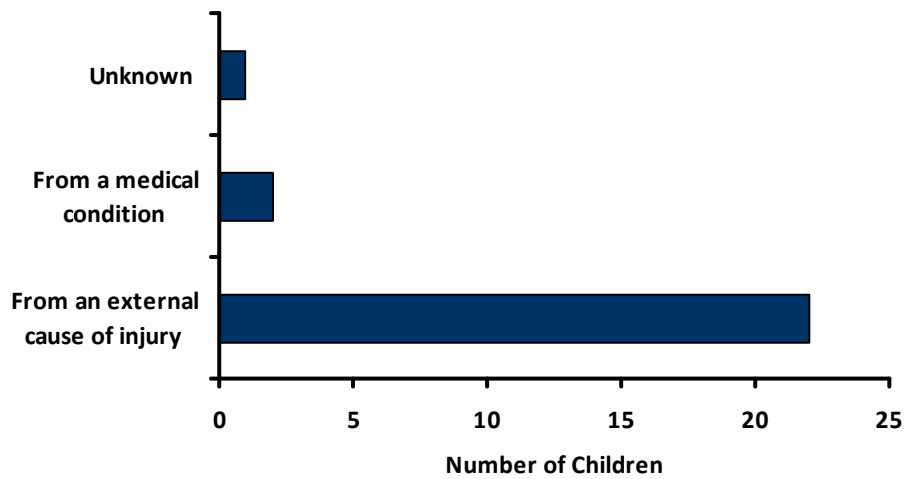
Manner of Death

Manner of Death	Count	%
Accident	2	8%
Homicide	21	84%
Undetermined	1	4%
Unknown	1	4%



Major Category of Death

Major Category of Death	Count	%
From a medical condition	2	8%
From an external cause of injury	22	88%
Unknown	1	4%





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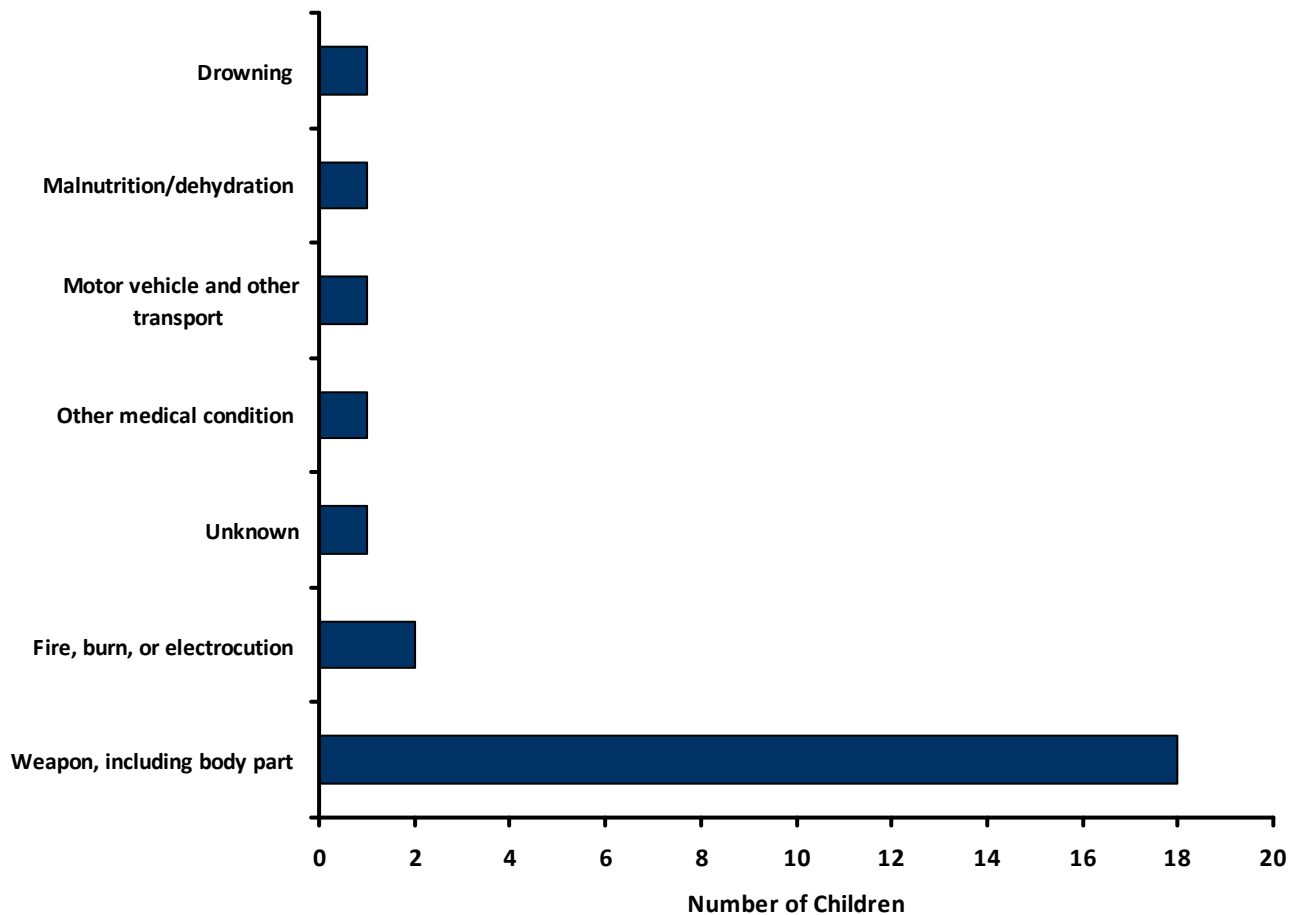
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Primary Cause of Death - All Children For State Fiscal Year 2010

Primary Cause of Death

Primary Cause of Death	Count	Count
Drowning	1	4%
Fire, burn, or electrocution	2	8%
Malnutrition/dehydration	1	4%
Motor vehicle and other transport	1	4%
Other medical condition	1	4%
Unknown	1	4%
Weapon, including body part	18	72%

Primary Cause of Death



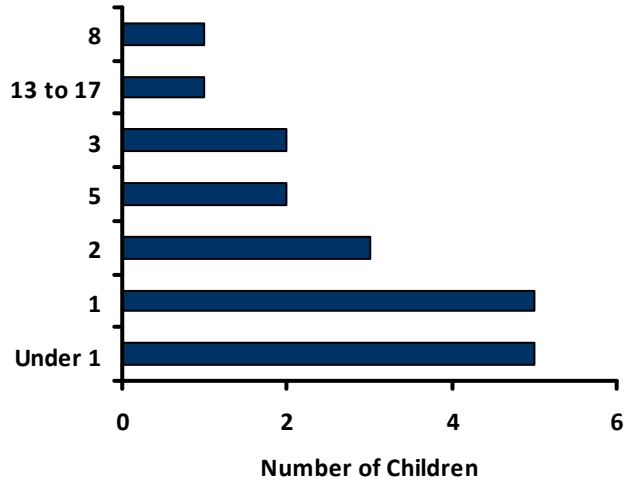


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Abuse Statistics - Demographic Characteristics of the Child For State Fiscal Year 2010

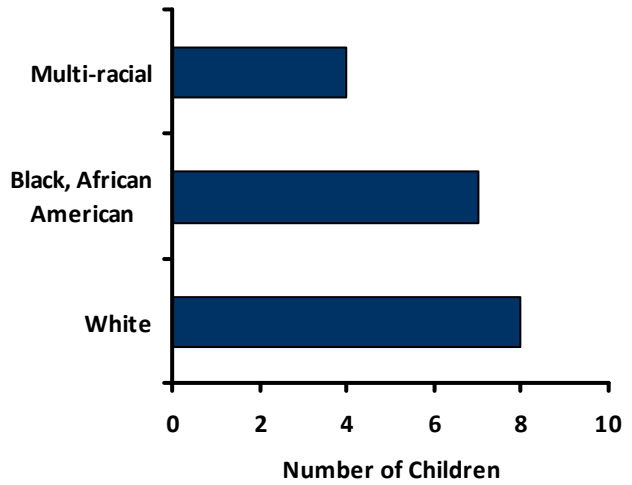
Age of Child

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Age of Child	Count	Count
01	5	26%
02	3	16%
03	2	11%
05	2	11%
08	1	5%
13 to 17	1	5%
Under 1	5	26%



Race of Child

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Race of Child	Count	%
Black, African American	7	37%
Multi-racial	4	21%
White	8	42%



Ethnicity of Child

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Ethnicity of Child	Count	%
Not Hispanic or Latino	18	95%
Hispanic or Latino	1	5%

Gender of Child

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Ethnicity of Child	Count	%
Female	8	42%
Male	11	58%



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Abuse Statistics - Characteristics of the Case

For State Fiscal Year 2010

Source of Report

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Source of Report	Count	%
Anonymous	1	5%
Hospital/Clinic	7	37%
LEA	10	53%
Other	1	5%

Type of Abuse (Child may have more than one)

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Type of Physical Abuse	Count
Abusive head trauma	16
Beating/kicking	12
Chronic Battered Child Syndrome	3
Gunshot wound	1
Multiple stab and incised wounds to the head and neck	1
Scalding/burning	3
Strangulation	1

Detailed Information of Cause of Death

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Detailed Information of Cause of Death	Count
Fire	2
Firearm	1
Person's body part	15
Sharp instrument	1



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Abuse Statistics - Characteristics of the Household For State Fiscal Year 2010

Caregivers Marital Status

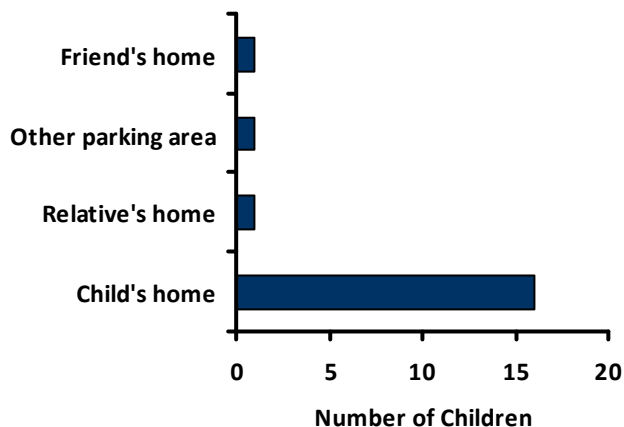
State Fiscal Year 2010		
Status	Count	Count
living together	15	79%
married	1	5%
single parent	3	16%

Other children in Household

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Other Children in Household	Count	%
No	7	37%
Yes	12	63%

Location of Incident

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Location	Count	%
Child's home	16	84%
Friend's home	1	5%
Other parking area	1	5%
Relative's home	1	5%



Caregiver 1 Employment Status

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Status	Count
Employed	11
On disability	1
Unemployed	4
Unknown	3

Caregiver 2 Employment Status

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Status	Count
Employed	4
On disability	1
Unemployed	6
Unknown	7

Caregiver 1 Education

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Education	Count
College	1
High school	4
Less than high school	11
Unknown	3

Caregiver 2 Education

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Education	Count
College	1
High school	6
Less than high school	4
Unknown	7

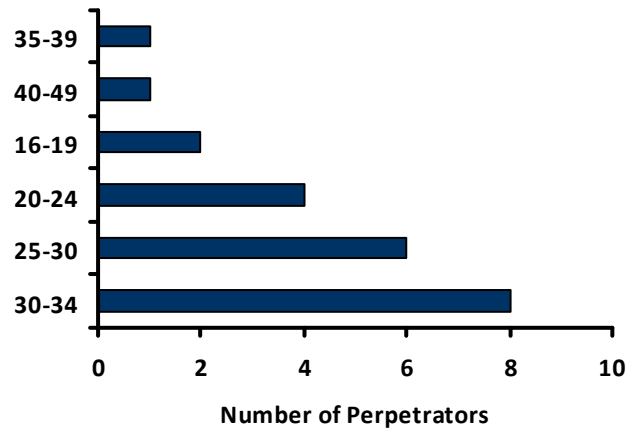


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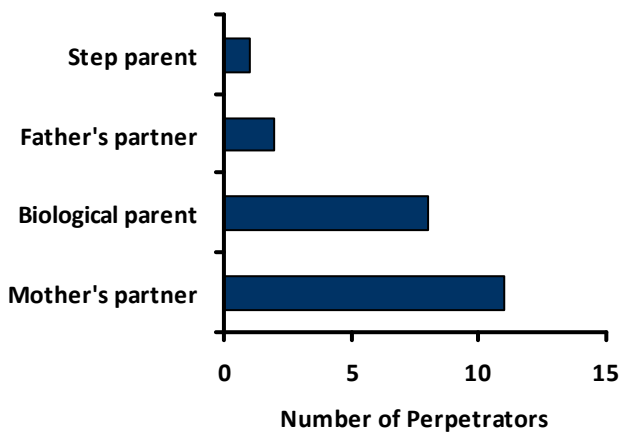
**Abuse Statistics - Characteristics of the Perpetrator (may be more than one per child)
For State Fiscal Year 2010**

Age of Perpetrator

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Age	Count	Count
16-19	2	9%
20-24	4	18%
25-30	6	27%
30-34	8	36%
35-39	1	5%
40-49	1	5%



Relationship of Perpetrator to Child



State Fiscal Year 2010		
Relationship	Count	%
Biological parent	8	36%
Father's partner	2	9%
Mother's partner	11	50%
Step parent	1	5%

Gender of Perpetrator

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Gender	Count	%
Female	4	18%
Male	18	82%



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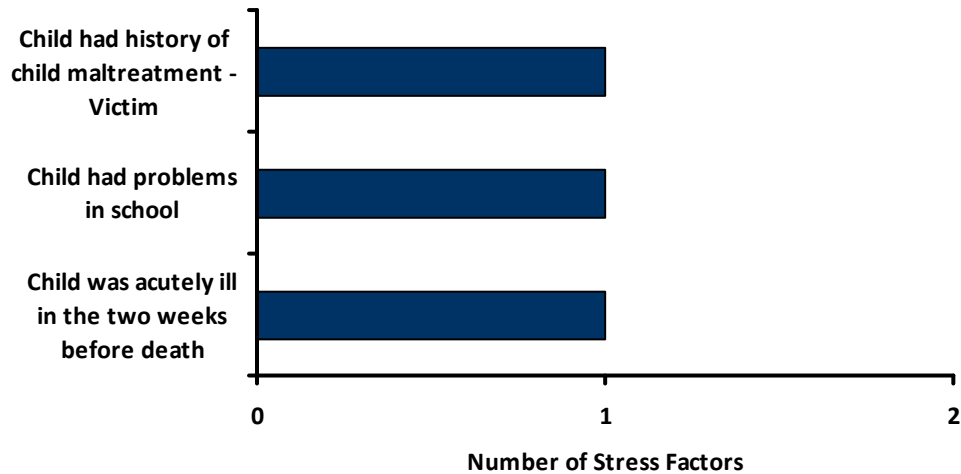
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Abuse Statistics - Victim Stress Factors

For State Fiscal Year 2010

Victim Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
Child had history of child maltreatment - Victim	1
Child had problems in school	1
Child was acutely ill in the two weeks before death	1





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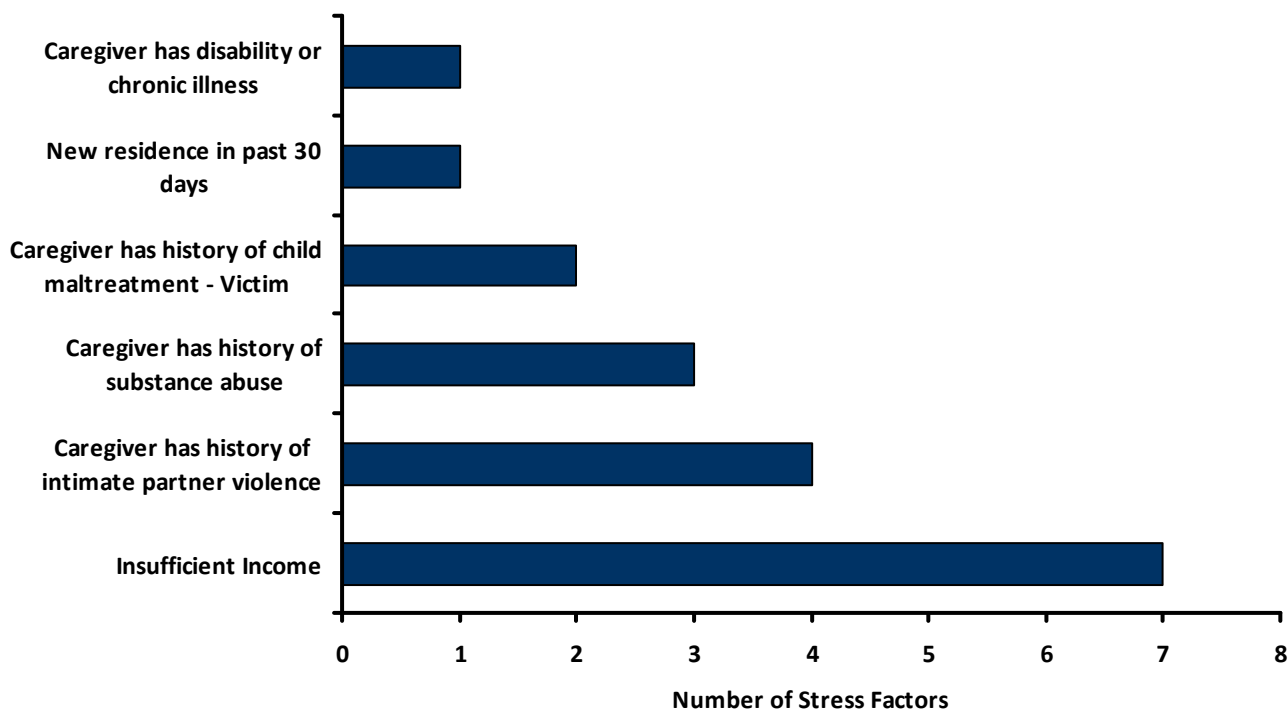
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Abuse Statistics - Caregiver Stress Factors

For State Fiscal Year 2010

Caregiver 1 Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver has disability or chronic illness	1
Caregiver has history of child maltreatment - Victim	2
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence	4
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	3
Insufficient Income	7
New residence in past 30 days	1





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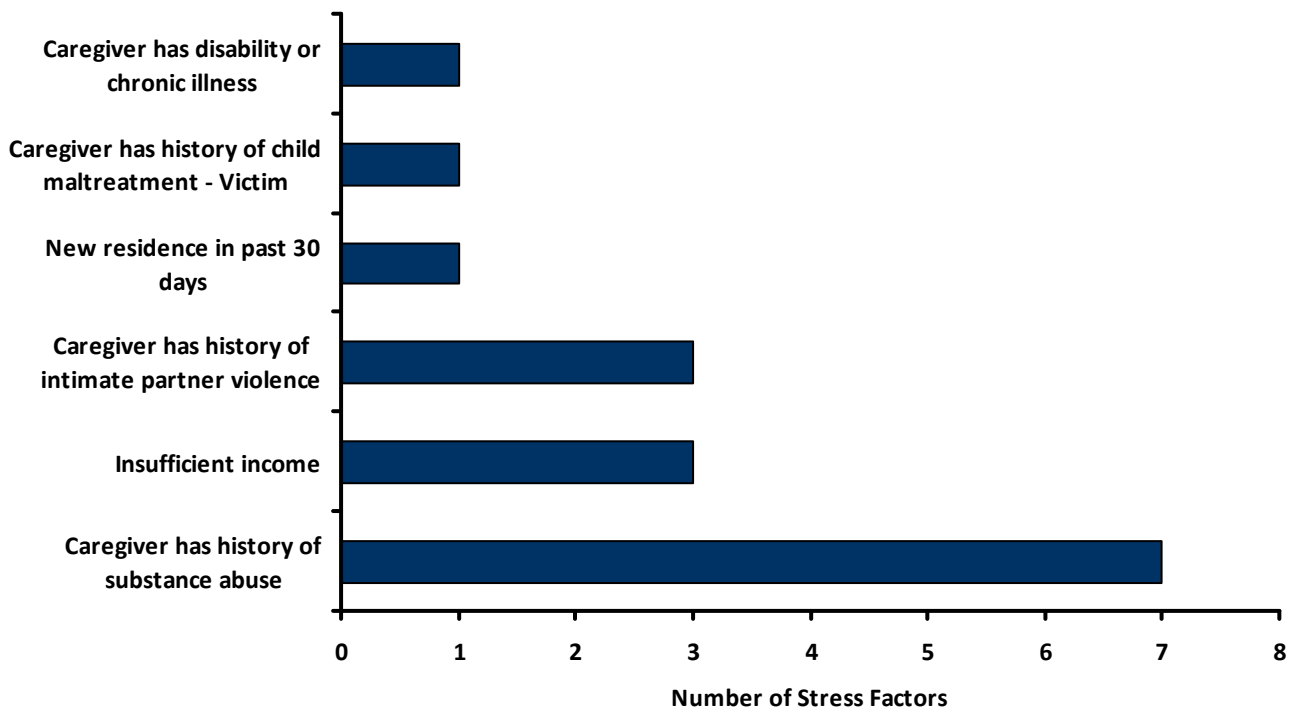
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Abuse Statistics - Caregiver Stress Factors

For State Fiscal Year 2010

Caregiver 2 Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver has disability or chronic illness	1
Caregiver has history of child maltreatment - Victim	1
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence	3
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	7
Insufficient income	3
New residence in past 30 days	1



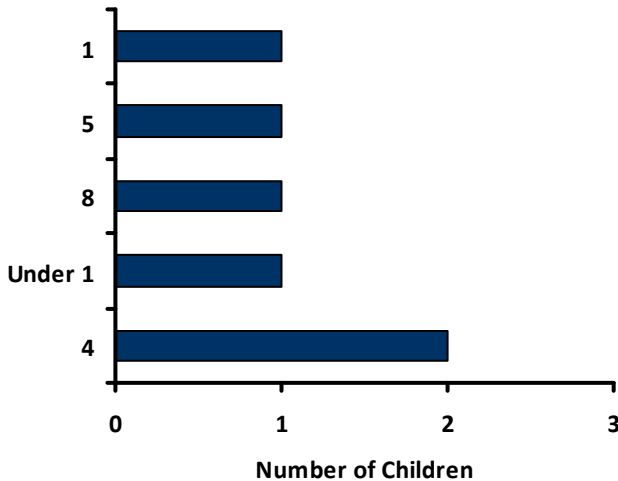


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Neglect Statistics - Demographic Characteristics of the Child For State Fiscal Year 2010

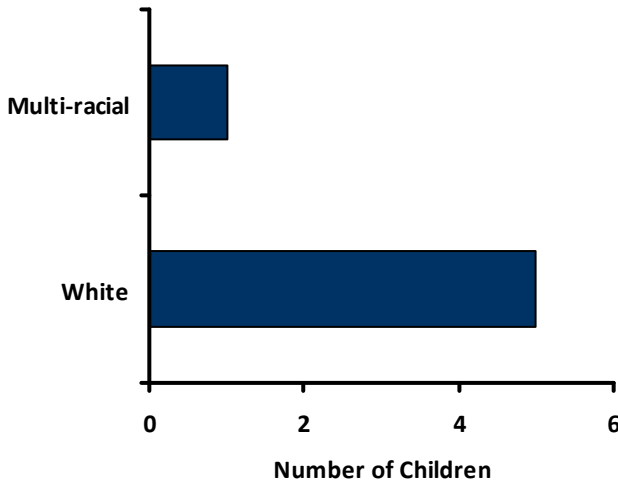
Age of Child

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Age of Child	Count	Count
01	1	17%
04	2	33%
05	1	17%
08	1	17%
Under 1	1	17%



Race of Child

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Race of Child	Count	%
Multi-racial	1	17%
White	5	83%



Ethnicity of Child

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Ethnicity of Child	Count	%
Not Hispanic or Latino	6	100%
Hispanic or Latino	0	0%

Gender of Child

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Ethnicity of Child	Count	%
Female	3	50%
Male	3	50%



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Neglect Statistics - Characteristics of the Case For State Fiscal Year 2010

Source of Report

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Source of Report	Count	%
Coroner	1	17%
Hospital/Clinic	3	50%
LEA	2	33%

Type of Neglect (Child may have more than one)

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Type of Neglect	Count
Caregiver impaired and child unrestrained	1
Failure to protect from hazards	3
Failure to provide necessities	2
Failure to provide necessities - fluids	1
Failure to provide necessities- Food	2
Failure to seek/follow treatment	3
Lack of supervision around water	1
Mother did not take child for medical care after birth	1
No medical care	1

Detailed Information of Cause of Death

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Detailed Information of Cause of Death	Count
Drowning	1
Medical Condition	2
Shot by Firearm	1
Unknown	1
Vehicle	1



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Neglect Statistics - Characteristics of the Household

For State Fiscal Year 2010

Caregivers Marital Status

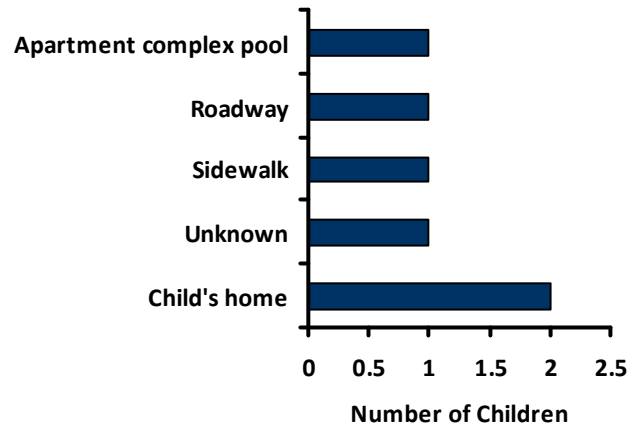
State Fiscal Year 2010		
Status	Count	Count
living together	3	50%
married	2	33%
single parent	1	17%

Other children in Household

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Other Children in Household	Count	%
No	1	17%
Yes	5	83%

Location of Incident

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Location	Count	%
Apartment complex pool	1	17%
Child's home	2	33%
Roadway	1	17%
Sidewalk	1	17%
Unknown	1	17%



Caregiver 1 Employment Status

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Status	Count
Employed	3
Unemployed	2
Unknown	1

Caregiver 2 Employment Status

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Status	Count
Employed	1
Unknown	4

Caregiver 1 Education

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Education	Count
High school	2
Less than high school	3
Unknown	1

Caregiver 2 Education

State Fiscal Year 2010	
Education	Count
Less than high school	1
Unknown	4

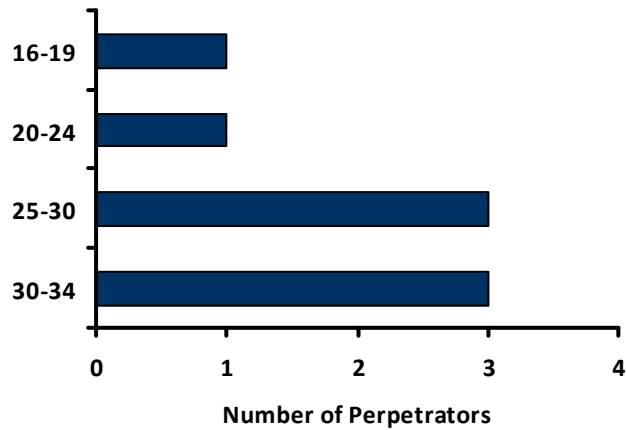


Department of Child Services Indiana Child Fatalities Report

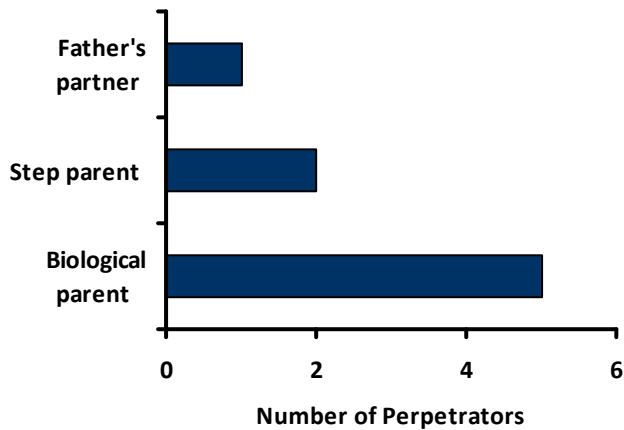
Neglect Statistics - Characteristics of the Perpetrator (may be more than one per child) For State Fiscal Year 2010

Age of Perpetrator

State Fiscal Year 2010		
Age	Count	Count
16-19	1	13%
20-24	1	13%
25-30	3	38%
30-34	3	38%



Relationship of Perpetrator to Child



State Fiscal Year 2010		
Relationship	Count	%
Biological parent	5	63%
Father's partner	1	13%
Step parent	2	25%

Gender of Perpetrator

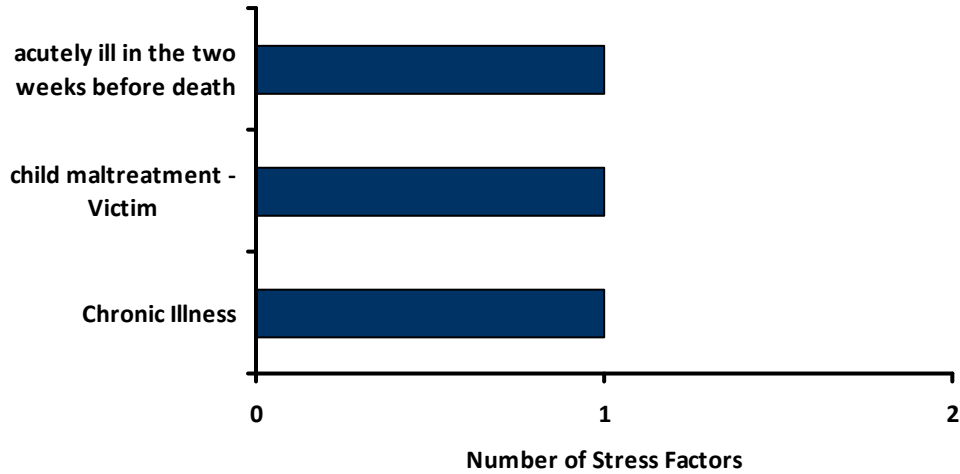
State Fiscal Year 2010		
Gender	Count	%
Female	5	63%
Male	3	38%



Department of Child Services Indiana Child Fatalities Report Neglect Statistics - Victim Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2010

Victim Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
acutely ill in the two weeks before death	1
child maltreatment - Victim	1
Chronic Illness	1

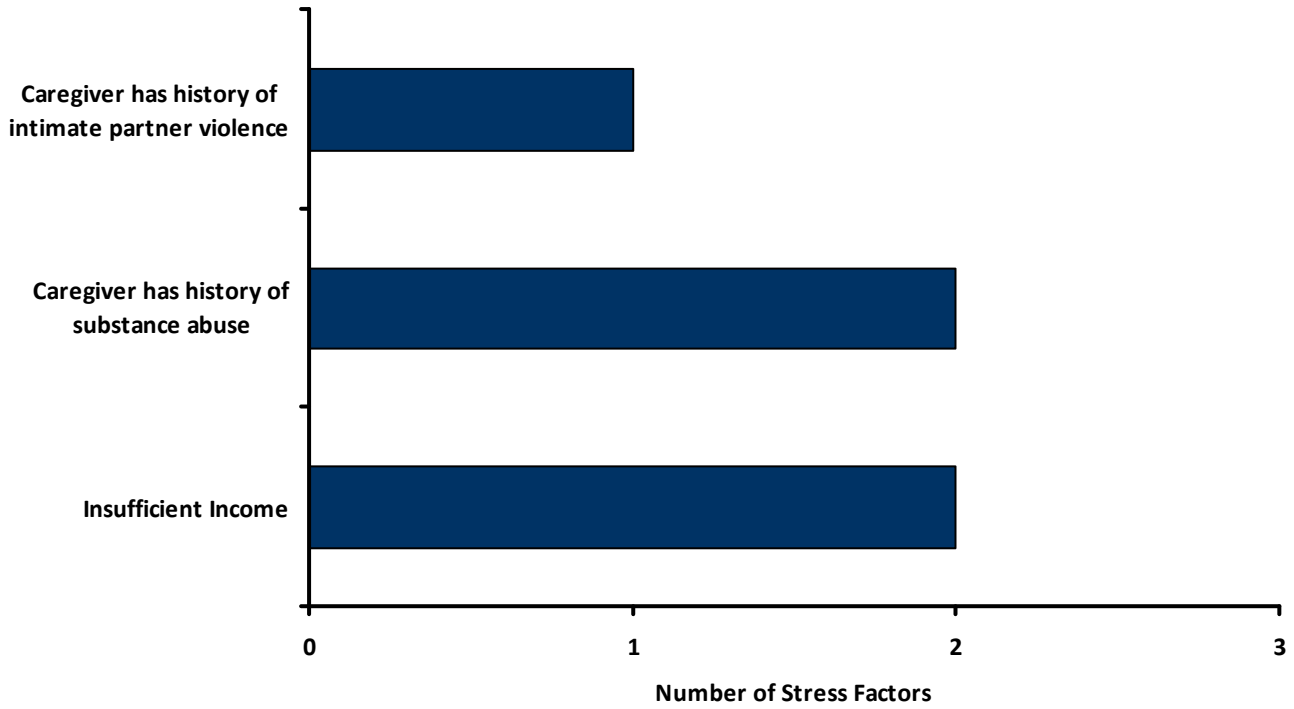




Department of Child Services Indiana Child Fatalities Report Neglect Statistics - Caregiver Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2010

Caregiver 1 Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence	1
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	2
Insufficient Income	2





Department of Child Services Indiana Child Fatalities Report Neglect Statistics - Caregiver Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2010

Caregiver 2 Stress Factors

Stress Factor	Count
Caregiver has history of child maltreatment - Victim	1
Caregiver has history of intimate partner violence	1
Caregiver has history of substance abuse	1

